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The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter :—" This is the result, Sir, of the scrutiny of the matter by the Retrenchment Committee and the Government."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With regard to the answer to clause (*e*) of this question, may I know whether the orders issued to revise these allowances are for the purpose of cutting them down ? "

The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

Law and Order in Malabar.

Mappillas confined in the Rajahmundry Jail.

436 Q.—Mr. K. Uppi Sahib : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state why the ration given to Mappillas, confined in Rajahmundry Jail without being charged before or tried by a Court of Law, has been curtailed ?

A.—The rations of the prisoners in question have not been curtailed. Instead of granting them allowances under the Madras State Prisoners Regulation the Government are providing them with diet appropriate to their status in life.

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" Sir, with your permission I should like to be allowed to make a few remarks about the answer to this Question, because, on going through the papers, I am not quite certain that the positive statement made in the first line of the answer is altogether justified, that is to say that the information justifies an answer in that form. The fact is that last June the Inspector-General of Prisons made a reference asking what scale of diet should be allowed to the Mappilla prisoners in the Rajahmundry Jail. We told him that they should be given as a general rule rice diet provided for ordinary convicts but that he should, however, see that those whose status warranted it should be given a diet appropriate to their position in life. We do not know at the present moment what scale of diet they are being given. Under those circumstances, perhaps I should better qualify my positive assertion that the rations of the prisoners have not been curtailed. I should therefore prefer to prefix to the first sentence of the answer already given : ' So far as the Government are aware '."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" Sir, apart from the question of rations which the hon. the Home Member has answered, I should like to know who are these prisoners detained in the Rajahmundry Jail, without being charged before, or tried by a Court of Law, and how many of these prisoners are detained in Rajahmundry."

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" Sir, the prisoners are detained under the Madras State Regulation of 1819 and on the last occasion when I saw the papers connected with them, I think the number was about 70."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" If they are detained under the State Regulation referred to, will the Government be pleased to state why they are not giving them the allowance they are entitled to under the Regulation ? "

The hon. Sir Arthur Knapp :—" Because the Government are giving them their food in lieu of their allowance."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Does it mean that the Regulation gives the Government the power to depart from it in any case they choose ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The interpretation which the Government have placed on the Regulation is that it is open to give the allowance required to provide for the maintenance of these prisoners or to give rations instead of the allowance."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" In regard to that interpretation, have the Government taken legal opinion ?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I think not."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" If so, will the Government now take legal opinion as to whether under that Regulation it is open to the Government to change or modify the provision in that Regulation ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I will consider that question, Sir."

Railways.

Railway communication between Mysore and South Kanara.

437 Q.—Khan Bahadur HAJI ABD-UL-LA HAJI QASIM : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether railway communication between Mysore State and South Kanara is likely to be opened, or whether it is under contemplation and if so, in what stage the proposals are ?

A.—The subject is under the control of the Government of India, and the Government are unable to make any statement on the subject.

Raliway line from Salem to Rasipuram.

438 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal before Government to open a railway line from Salem to Rasipuram in preference to the already sanctioned and matured scheme of opening a railway line from Salem to Attur ; and

(b) whether in view of the prevailing acute distress in the Salem district, the Government contemplate the possibility of giving preference to the Salem-Attur line as a famine relief measure over the Salem-Rasipur line ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 226.

Virudupatti-Tenkasi railway line.

439 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the scheme of Virudupatti-Tenkasi railway line is going to be put into effect in the near future ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 227.